

knew they could always depend on the steady hand of Sgt. Kasper to guide them through the tension-filled moments.

In addition to pinning on a badge for work each day, Sgt. Kasper passed on his knowledge about police work as one of the Department's original firearms instructors. Sgt. Kasper's dedication to the Department was surpassed only by his devotion to his family. In a testament to just how well Sgt. Kasper juggled the demands of police work and the needs of his family, his daughter, Heather, followed in her father's footsteps to become a police officer with a department in Florida.

Rick's career and accomplishments will be celebrated on Friday, May 9, 2008 during a dinner at the Downingtown Country Club.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in praising the outstanding service of Sgt. Richard J. Kasper, and all those who take an oath to serve and protect their communities.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GILBERT GUY FRANCIS

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Gilbert Guy Francis upon the occasion of his 80th birthday.

Gilbert Francis dedicated his life to selflessly serving our community and country. Following service in the Air Force, Mr. Francis graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Education and subsequently taught for 10 years at Southwestern High School in Detroit. Many happily remember his efforts as he found the time to teach typing and accounting to the continuing education school at night and the regular students during the day.

Gil has many hobbies as well. He faithfully studies the genealogy of the Francis family, tracing their roots back to Wales. Gill also excels at stamp collecting, roller-skate dancing, and playing the piano. As well as being an expert keyboardist, Gil has along the way done much to further the study and appreciation level for pipe organs. Not the first book he has put pen to paper for, "Michigan Pipe Organ Theaters" is his latest anticipated forthcoming publication. He has distinguished himself serving as the Treasurer and then President of the Detroit Theater Organ Society for a number of successful years. These days, lucky listeners can happen upon the organ historian playing the pipe organ at the famed Redford Theatre for classic old films.

Gilbert Francis is a man of integrity, devoted to his family, who has dedicated his life to his wife Penny, his two children Carl and Nancy, and their wonderful grand- and now great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, for eighty years Gilbert Guy Francis has faithfully served his family and community. As he enters the next phase of his life, he continues a legacy of dedication, skill of craft, and dignified leadership. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Gilbert upon this momentous day and recognizing his years of loyal service to our community and country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 5th, 2008, I was absent for legislative business to attend a Department of Defense event in my district.

Had I been present, on H. Res. 952 to establish a National Teacher's Day, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING MRS. DEBORAH ANN HARRIS

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Deborah Ann Harris, a teacher at St. Francis Episcopal Day School in Houston, Texas, for receiving a 2008 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

Under a bill Congress passed in 1983, the President selects up to 108 teachers every year to recognize for their exemplary contributions. This Presidential Award is the highest honor a kindergarten through 12th grade math or science teacher can receive for outstanding teaching in the United States.

Anne Chisholm, middle school principal at St. Francis Episcopal Day School, says of Mrs. Harris, "Debbie has a true passion for life and teaching science, the world is her classroom. Debbie sees the goodness in people, and she believes that all children can be great and she exhibits this through her teaching."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in tribute to Mrs. Deborah Ann Harris for inspiring the students at St. Francis Episcopal Day School, and to congratulate her for earning this prestigious award.

INTRODUCTION OF HOME OWNER-SHIP TAX CREDIT LEGISLATION

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, today I, along with several of my colleagues, am introducing legislation to provide homebuyers with incentives to purchase as a way of eliminating the excess inventory of homes, relieving some of the pressure on falling housing prices, and increasing housing demand at a time when mortgage lenders are tightening up their loan requirements.

According to the Nebraska Business Forecast Council, December 2007, inventories of completed and unsold housing units in Nebraska remain high. Although housing construction in Nebraska did not experience the surge seen on the east and west coasts, it could take the balance of 2008 before new house inventories in Nebraska are drawn down. Reducing these housing stocks in Nebraska is critical to the continued growth of

Nebraska home builders and the many other sectors of the economy dependent on the housing construction industry.

According to the National Association of Realtors, total housing inventory rose 5.5 percent at the end of this January to 4.19 million existing homes available for sale, which represents a 10.3-month supply at the current sales pace, up from a 9.7-month supply in December. Former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan noted in November 2007 that reducing home inventories is critical for the health of the economy.

Madam Speaker, under the legislation I am introducing today, home buyers who purchase a qualified principal residence within a year of the Act's enactment will be eligible for a one-time tax credit of 10 percent of the home's purchase price, up to \$10,000. Mortgages which exceed the maximum original principal obligation of a mortgage the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation will purchase, will not qualify.

American taxpayers should not bear the burden of bailing out scam artists and speculators. This bill provides a market incentive which works to actively reduce local inventory of homes, stimulate the economy and empower homebuyers. I encourage my colleagues in the House to examine this bill and join me in helping provide Americans with a viable pathway to home ownership.

SALUTING MINNESOTA'S TEACHER OF THE YEAR, CARLEEN GULSTAD OF HOPKINS NORTH JR. HIGH SCHOOL

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, today is National Teachers Day, and Mr. RAMSTAD and I want to pay tribute to all of America's dedicated, talented and energetic teachers who have so much influence on our Nation's children and our country's future. We thank them for their sacrifice, selfless devotion to young people and their public service.

We want to call special attention today to one such teacher, Minnesota's "Teacher of the Year," Carleen Gulstad. Carleen, who lives in Maple Grove, teaches language arts at Hopkins North Jr. High School in Minnetonka, which serves the families of both the 3rd and 5th Congressional Districts. She has been teaching 8th and 9th grade students in English classes at Hopkins North since 1999.

Carleen is truly most deserving of this distinguished honor from Education Minnesota. The award was announced Sunday, May 4, at its 44th annual awards program in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota.

Madam Speaker, Carleen says that one of her guiding principles as a teacher is to treat each student as an individual. "Every kid counts. Every kid has a story. And every kid has value," Carleen says. "I teach them critical thinking. They need to decide for themselves."

That kind of approach is what makes Carleen a great teacher, and our Nation's outstanding teachers carry those very same traits, teachers who are brilliant in their ability to offer encouragement, who can spark the